

**Water cycle:** describes the continuous movement of water on, above and below the surface of the Earth

**Precipitation:** rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to or condenses on the ground

**Condensation:** the conversion of a vapour or gas to a liquid.

**Evaporation:** is the process of a substance in a liquid state changing to a gaseous state due to an increase in temperature and/or pressure.

**Infiltration:** is the process by which water on the ground surface enters the soil.

**Surface run off:** is **water**, from rain, snowmelt, or other sources, that flows over the land **surface**,

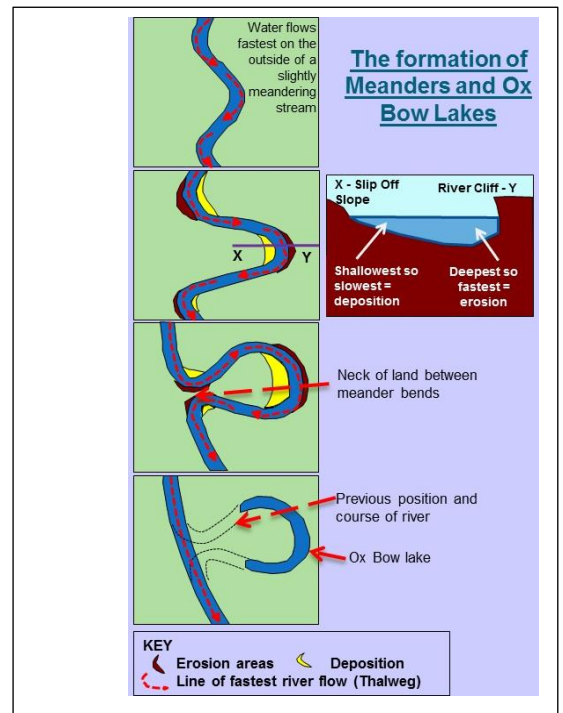
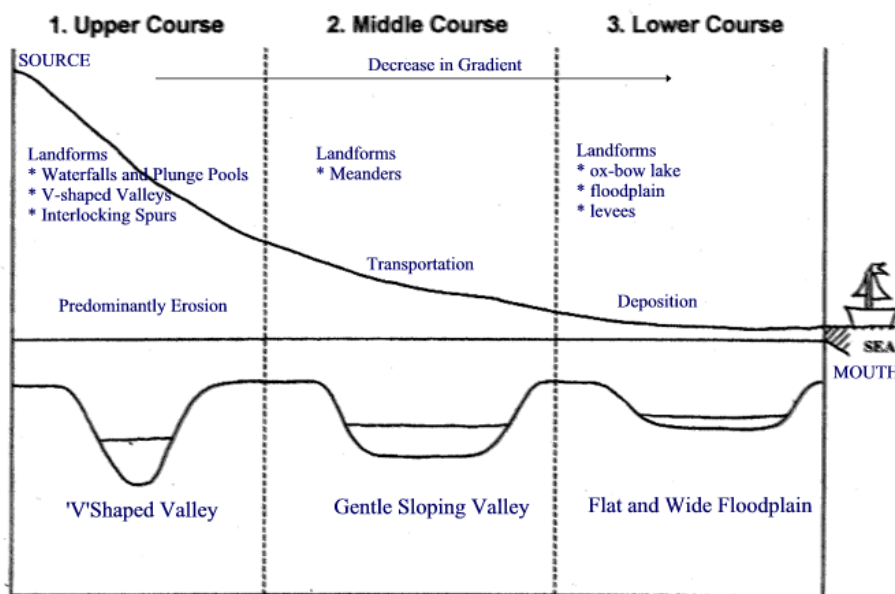
**Through flow:** is the horizontal **flow** of water within the soil layer. It normally takes place when the soil is completely saturated with water.

**Groundwater:** is water that is found underground in cracks and spaces in the soil, sand and rocks.

**Permeable:** rocks that let water pass through it.

**Impermeable:** rocks that do not let water pass through

**Long profile:** shows changes in the height (altitude) of the course of a river from its source to its mouth



## Features

**Confluence:** the point at which rivers meet.

**Drainage Basin:** the land that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

**Flood Plain:** the wide, flat floor of a river valley that is likely to flood.

**Gorge:** a steep-sided, narrow rocky valley marking the retreat of a waterfall.

**Lower course:** the section of the river near the sea.

**Meander:** a bend in a river.

**Middle Course:** the section of the river between the mountains and the lowland.

**Mouth:** where a river ends, at a lake or the sea.

**Plunge Pool:** the deep pool below a waterfall.

**River Cliff:** created on the outside of a meander bend by the erosive effect of fast-flowing water.

**Source:** where a river starts, usually in the mountains.

**Tributary:** a smaller river that joins a larger one.

**Upper Course:** the mountain stage of a river with steep gradients and much erosion.

**V-shaped Valley:** a deep v-shaped valley is usually found in the upper course of the river where the water has considerable erosive power.

**Waterfalls:** form where the river meets a band of softer rock after flowing over an area of more resistant material. Waterfalls progressively cut back, leaving a gorge.

**Watershed:** the highland separating one river basin from another.